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imagery analysis report

New SLBM At-Sea Test Range, PRC (TSR)

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NEW SLBM AT-SEA TEST RANGE PRC (TSR)

INTRODUCTION

1. (TSR) An SLBM at-sea test range is being established in the Bohai (Po-hai) Strait/northern Yellow Sea area of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Two permanent tracking facilities associated with the test range have been identified—one at Lyushun (Lu-shun) on the Liaodong (Liao-tung) Peninsula and the other at Lungkou (Lung-kou) on the Shandong (Shan-tung) Peninsula (Figure 1). The locations of the two tracking facilities suggest a missile flight trajectory from the SLBM operating area southeast of Lyushun southward over the Shandong Peninsula to an impact area probably east or south of Qingdao (Ching-tao).

2. (TSR) A firm association between the two permanent tracking facilities is evidenced in two ways. Both the expansion of the Lyushun facility and construction of the Lungkou facility began in mid-1976, and the optical instrumentation buildings at the two facilities are very similar.

3. (TSR) Two optical tracking sites for mobile equipment, one north and one south of the permanent facility at Lyushun, will probably be used to support future SLBM at-sea test launches.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. (TSR) The Lyushun Optical Tracking Facility (Figure 2), which was originally designed for mobile tracking equipment only, has been expanded to a permanent facility and may also serve as a range control facility for future at-sea test launches. The facility formerly consisted of a rectangular concrete hardstand and a single support build-

ing; however, ten new buildings have been built since expansion began in mid-1976. One of the new buildings, an optical instrumentation building (Figure 3), has a circular base for a dome and is almost identical to the two buildings at Lungkou Optical Tracking Facility on the Shandong Peninsula. A second building at Lyushun has two circular

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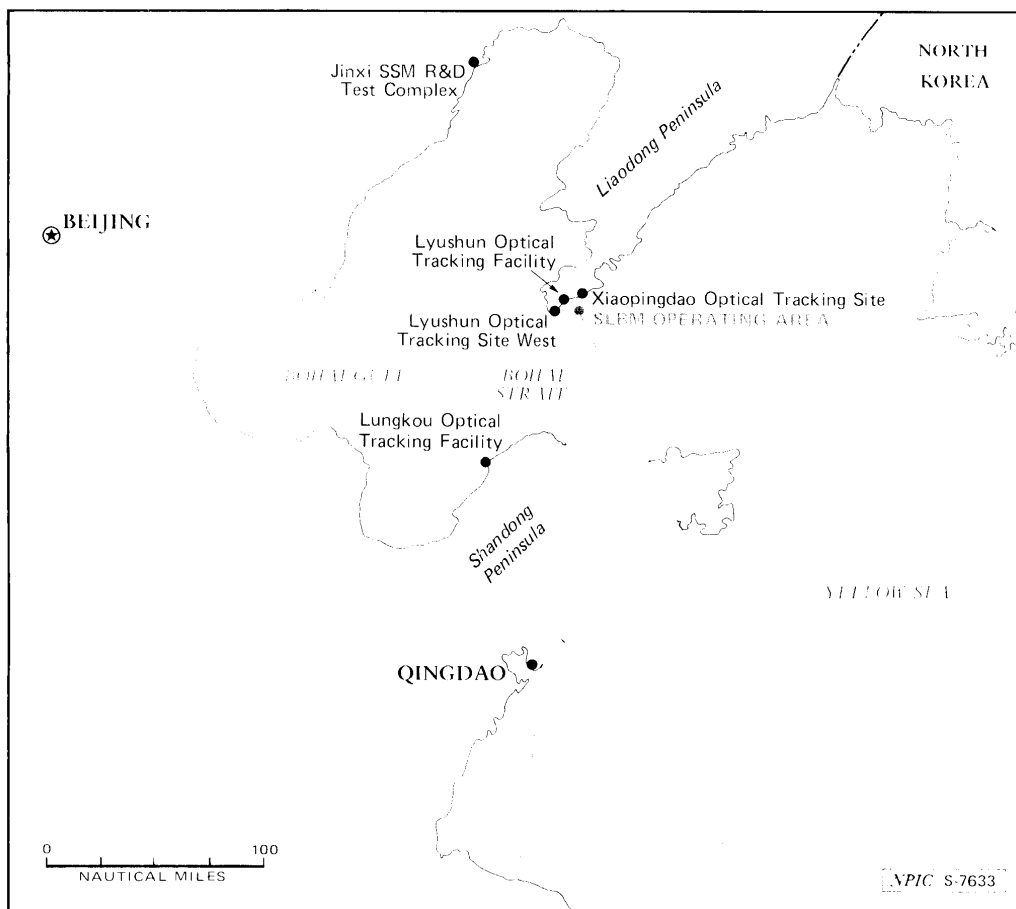


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF TRACKING FACILITIES AND POSTULATED LOCATION OF SLBM AT-SEA TEST RANGE, PRC

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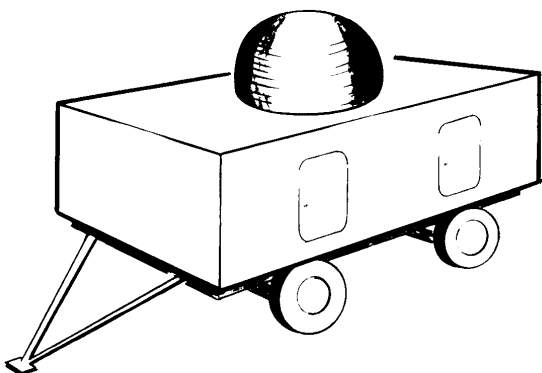
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bases or mounting rings for additional instrumentation on its roof (Figure 4). Three other buildings are designed with possible positions for instrumentation on the roofs.

5. (TSR) The Lyushun Optical Tracking Facility is between two optical tracking sites—Xiaopingdao (Hsiao-ping-tao) Optical Tracking Site [redacted] and Lyushun Optical Tracking Site West [redacted]—on the southeastern Liaodong coast. Each of the two sites is designed solely as a position for mobile optical tracking equipment. All three areas (the permanent facility and the two sites) were occupied by mobile optical trackers (Figure 5) and support vans during at-sea SLBM activity in late 1972, late 1973, and most recently in May and June 1979. Xiaopingdao Optical Tracking Site, the northernmost site, consists of a rectangular concrete hardstand and is adjacent to Luda (Lu-ta) Coastal Defense Site Cruise Missile Tactical Short Range [redacted]. Lyushun Optical Tracking Site West, the southernmost site, also consists of a rectangular concrete hardstand and is on the southeasternmost tip of the Liaodong Peninsula (Figure 7). The mobile optical trackers deployed to these three sites probably have provided positioning data for the Golf ballistic missile submarine (SSB) whenever the Golf has conducted SLBM-related tests and training in its operating area off the Liaodong coast. It is also likely that the mobile trackers were used to monitor possible ejection system tests from the Golf in 1972, 1973, and 1979. Mobile optical trackers may be deployed to both sites in order to

provide positioning and tracking data for future SLBM at-sea tests.

6. (TSR) The tracking facility near Lungkou on the Shandong Peninsula consists of two instrumentation areas, 0.5 nautical mile (nm) apart. Instrumentation area A consists of an optical instrumentation building with a [redacted] dome (Figure 8), four barracks/quarters, and four support buildings. Instrumentation area B consists of an optical instrumentation building almost identical to the one at area A (Figure 9). A dome has not been installed; however, the base for the dome and the remainder of the building appear complete. Area B also contains seven barracks/quarters and four support buildings. The reason for two nearly identical buildings with optical tracking domes at the same facility is probably to provide tracking redundancy.

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